

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call no. 77 on February 2, 2017 due to an unscheduled constituent meeting off the House Floor that unexpectedly ran long. Had I been present for the roll call, I would have voted "NO".

INTRODUCTION OF THE RETURN
TO PRUDENT BANKING ACT**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the nine-year anniversary of the greatest financial crisis in a generation. This economic disaster nearly caused the destruction of our country's entire financial infrastructure and led to what we call now the Great Recession.

However, during the last nine years Wall Street Banks have succeeded and in the process have caused the financial failure of millions of Americans. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have all reported record profits during the recession. Wall Street in the last nine years has regained ALL of its pre-crisis wealth with interest, while Main Street has yet to see a real recovery.

During the 1990's, Wall Street's biggest banks and speculation houses concocted a fraudulent and greedy scheme to create false money. Then, in 2008, their crime exploded, nearly destroying capitalism. Their recklessness was so extreme it wiped out the net worth of 44 percent of Hispanic American households, 33 percent of African American households, and 11 percent of Caucasian households, respectively.

This was a taking of historic dimension never reimbursed to this day. It sucked out the wealth from millions of American families. It's time for Congress to ensure that these failures in our banking system are never repeated.

That is why I have reintroduced the Return to Prudent Banking Act. To build on the momentum and the movement to reinstate Glass-Steagall.

Since last summer, fifteen state legislatures introduced resolutions calling for Congress to reinstate Glass Steagall. Democrats and Republicans have memorialized support for Glass-Steagall in their respective political platforms. Even President Trump has declared his support for a new Glass-Steagall law and we are obligated to work with him to do just that.

I was proud to join with 57 members of the House who several years ago voted against the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the bill that overturned Glass Steagall. As the anti-regulation movement won the day, that law was a clear signal that Wall Street was in charge. Banks grew larger and riskier, and American taxpayers were given the bill when the deregulated financial sector fell apart.

This is a reality that has sunk its teeth deep into the flesh of our Republic, influencing more and more who is elevated to office.

Mr. Speaker, these banks have to be defanged. Restoring Glass Steagall is a first step among other items, like a campaign finance reform, better trade deals, and better deals for American workers.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY HOOPES

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judith H. Hoopes, of Greenville, Delaware, a lifelong Delawarean and an invaluable member of our community.

A 1960 graduate of Duke University, her college major in history led to her long-time involvement with the Delaware Historical Society. She was involved in many state arts organizations, including her appointment as Chair of the Delaware State Arts Council by then-Governor Pete duPont. Dedicated to her community, Judy was a valuable asset to the numerous non-profits in Delaware she lent her support. She was a founding board member and past Chair of the Delaware Community Foundation, was the first woman to Chair the YMCA board, a founder of the Fund for Women, and a longtime Woodlawn Trustee. For these and many other contributions Judy received the Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Judy and her late husband Robert were married for 53 years. Their family was the focus of their lives, and their wonderful children and grandchildren are a testament to their good work. I am honored to call their daughter, Stephanie, and son, Robert Jr., friends. Their commitment to community and love of Delaware will surely carry on their mother's spirit. My sympathy goes out to Stephanie, Robert and his wife Hilary, Judy's five grandchildren James, Elizabeth, Penelope, Riter, and Charlotte, as well as their extended family and Judy's many friends.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Judy, and I want to express my deep gratitude for her dedication and service to her community, and the state of Delaware.

HONORING MICHAEL MINASIAN

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and the passing of a special person from Montebello, California. Mr. Michael Minasian was an irreplaceable member of the Armenian-American community, who was born to survivors of the Armenian genocide in 1931. Mr. Minasian's success wasn't handed to him; for five years he and his family lived in a camp for displaced persons after World War II. When Mr. Minasian and his family immigrated to the United States, he attended night school to learn English while helping his parents support the family.

From 1953 to 1955, Mr. Minasian served in the U.S. Armed Forces in West Germany, and

became a citizen in 1954. He returned to the Los Angeles area where he produced the bilingual "Armenian Radio Hour" and put his entrepreneurial spirit to work, first through owning the International Music Center in East Los Angeles, and later by building a successful insurance agency. More recently, Mr. Minasian reinvented himself as a land developer, building tracts of single family homes. Through his businesses, Mr. Minasian helped develop the City of Montebello and much of Eastern Los Angeles County bears his mark.

Mr. Minasian's contributions to the economy of our community were rivaled only by his civic leadership. A champion of the Armenian-American community, he spearheaded efforts to build the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument, which towers over Montebello's Bicknell Park. As founder of the Armenian Assembly, he paid his success forward to young Armenians by creating a Washington, DC internship placement program. Mr. Minasian has even made a difference right here in the United States Congress, where he successfully led the fight for passage of Armenian-genocide resolutions in 1975, 1984, and 1985.

Countless organizations in Montebello have benefitted from Mr. Minasian's leadership. He served as President of the Montebello Junior Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Montebello Citizens Advisory Committee on Park Planning and Design. He has also served on the boards of directors of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce and the Armenian Educational Foundation. His contributions to the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the Montebello American Legion, and as Human Services Commissioner for the City of Montebello will not be forgotten.

Mr. Minasian's life embodies the spirit of our hardworking immigrant community. His legacy will serve as a shining example, not only to the Armenian-American community but for all future generations, of the difference that one man or woman can make in his or her community. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending my condolences to his widow, Lydia, and their four children and six grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON RUBIN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Rubin on being an honoree at the National Museum of American Jewish History's Only in America Gala. This honor seeks to recognize those individuals who have greatly helped in the development of the Museum and for service to the business, cultural, and philanthropic communities. His contributions to our community have been recognized by many, and I am grateful for his work for the people of Philadelphia.

Ron's career began in the 1950s when he joined his father's small real estate firm. Throughout his career, Ron has worked to guide growth for major development in office buildings, retail centers, and malls up and down the East Coast. Ron's work helped make the Rubin Organization one of the largest real estate companies in the United States. After the Rubin Organization was acquired by the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT), Ron served as CEO

of PREIT and was recently appointed Chair-man of the Board of Trustees.

In the 1990s, Ron helped to revitalize the Center City Business District by helping develop the Center City District business-improvement group. He has worked closely with many Philadelphia organizations including PECO Energy, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Kimmel Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. As the co-chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of American Jewish History, Ron helped oversee the expansion of the Museum to its current location on Independence Mall.

Ron's hard work and dedication to improving Philadelphia embodies the Museum's motto of "Dream, Dare, Do." In recognition of his years of service to Philadelphia, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on this honor.

INTRODUCTION OF PUTTING OUR VETERANS BACK TO WORK ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act, a bill I introduced earlier today to help veterans gain skills for good paying jobs by reauthorizing the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). The VRAP program, signed into law in 2011 and expired in March 2014, provided training for education that led to high demand occupations, including management, business and financial operations, protective service, construction and transportation among other careers. In the two years of the implementation of VRAP, the Department of Veterans Affairs approved over 126,000 applications, of which, 76,000 veterans enrolled in a training program.

The Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act extends the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Services with severe injuries or illnesses, extends rehabilitation programs for persons who have exhausted their rights to unemployment benefits under state law and reauthorizes collaborative veterans' training, mentoring and placement programs.

This legislation builds on our vow to hire our nation's heroes by directing the Secretary of the VA to establish a Federal web-based employment portal containing information on Federal programs and activities concerning employment, unemployment and training programs that are geared towards veterans. This legislation also directs the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to award grants to hire veterans as firefighters and law enforcement officers. Finally, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act directs the heads of executive agencies to consider favorably as an evaluation factor for civilian and defense contracts at or above \$25 million, a prospective contractor with a workforce of at least 5 percent veterans.

The men and women who signed up to defend America and our values, whether they served during Vietnam or more recently in Iraq or Afghanistan, are owed our gratitude and

our promise to support them as they transition to civilian life. I urge my colleagues to pass the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act to ensure that our heroes are afforded meaningful employment opportunities. This is a promise that we must keep.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DREAMERS, IMMIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES (DIRE) LEGAL AID ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the DREAMers, Immigrants, and Refugees (DIRE) Act. This legislation will provide funds for legal services to protect DREAMers, immigrants, and refugees from President Trump's Executive Order.

Last week, I held an immigration town hall. Scores of my constituents attended because they were afraid for their families and communities. This was before the Executive Order was released. When I was at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Saturday, I saw this fear escalate. Immigrants and refugees were unjustifiably detained and denied access to counsel at airports across our country. President Trump's Executive Order directly challenges the right to due process, which is guaranteed under our Constitution. My legislation will guarantee that DREAMers, immigrants, and refugees have access to legal aid.

I am deeply concerned about the actions taken by the Trump Administration. The refugees that have been granted status by the U.S. Government undergo an intensive security screening process that takes an average of 18 to 24 months. The security screening is performed by multiple federal agencies, including the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Department of Defense. The security screening that refugees undergo is the most intensive of any individual entering the United States.

It is sad that the Trump Administration would detain individuals, who fear for their lives in their home countries and seek refuge in the United States, with the intent to deport them back into harm's way. These actions are a misrepresentation of our American values. Our country has always stood up for the oppressed and welcomed the persecuted. It is un-American to turn our backs on those that need our help the most.

If we wish to remain a beacon of freedom to the world, we must stand up for the immigrants and refugees looking towards the United States for hope. We cannot just claim we are the greatest nation in the world. We actually have to act like it too.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE AND THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women in Data Science Conference (WiDS) and the Michigan In Data Science professors and scholars who are participating in this forum. WiDS plays an important role in bringing together world-class researchers to share cutting edge findings and best practices.

The Women in Data Science conference is a Stanford University-affiliated technical conference that brings together the latest data science techniques and findings across a variety of disciplines. The conference features exclusively women speakers and includes seven distinguished scholars from the University of Michigan from its College of Engineering and School of Information. Their research covers a variety of fields including healthcare, artificial intelligence and machine learning. Additionally, it includes a poster session to showcase current student and faculty research as well as a livestream featuring industry and academic leaders at Stanford University.

Data science is a new field that has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of a variety of disciplines, and forums like WiDS play a critical role driving advances by facilitating knowledge transfer between top scholars and industry researchers. It is inspiring to see women from the University of Michigan leading the way in publishing groundbreaking discoveries that further our understanding of critical areas like healthcare, communications and statistical analysis. The real-world impact of this research underscores the importance of the work being showcased, and it is my hope that the University of Michigan continues to be a leader in this field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Michigan researchers and other participants in the Women in Data Science Conference. The innovative research and support for women help inspire and educate individuals about the important work being done on data science across the country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM REGULATORY CERTAINTY ACT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act. In 2015, a federal judge ruled in a citizen suit that dissolved manure nitrates constitute a "solid waste" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Four dairies in Washington State that were proactively working with the EPA to address nutrient management issues at their dairies were held culpable of "open dumping" by a federal judge. A farmer myself, I firmly believe farmers have and must continue to